

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recreational vehicle comprising:

a main housing having a plurality of walls that are joined together so as to define an interior living space with a floor and a roof, wherein the plurality of walls includes a first wall having an opening formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall;

a slide-out housing positioned in the opening in the first wall so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out housing having upper and lower outer edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position; and

a securing mechanism having a first plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall and a second plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower outer edges of the slide-out housing, wherein the second plurality of securing components engages with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position so as to couple the upper and lower outer edges of the slide-out housing to the upper and lower portions of the first wall to thereby inhibit movement between the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position.

2. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the slide-out housing is movable between a retracted position such that the slide-out housing is retracted into the opening so as to be substantially positioned within the main housing and an extended position such that the slide-out housing is extended outward from the opening so that at least a portion of the slide-out housing is extended outward from the first wall.

3. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of securing components are adapted to receive the second plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position.

4. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the second plurality of securing components extend in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first wall.

5. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the second plurality of securing components comprises a plurality of securing members, and wherein the first plurality of securing components comprises a plurality of securing receptacles that receive the plurality of securing members when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position.

6. The recreational vehicle of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of securing members includes a cylindrically shaped post, and wherein each of the plurality of receptacles defines an elongated slot having horizontal and vertical dimensions, and wherein the horizontal dimension is selected so as to restrict the horizontal movement of the securing members once positioned inside the receptacles.

7. The recreational vehicle of Claim 6, further comprising one or more bolts mounted adjacent one or more of the receptacles and adapted to extend horizontally and generally perpendicular to the axis of the cylindrical post into the elongated slot thereby reducing the vertical dimension of the elongated slot so as to limit the vertical movement of the one or more securing members positioned within the one or more receptacles.

8. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises a chassis having first and second ends and first and second lateral sides.

9. The recreational vehicle of Claim 8, wherein the securing mechanism is positioned proximate a midpoint of the slide-out housing along a direction extending between the first and second ends of the chassis.

10. The recreational vehicle of Claim 8, wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises a plurality of wheels attached to the chassis so as to permit rolling movement of the recreational vehicle over the ground.

11. The recreational vehicle of Claim 8, wherein the floor of the main housing is positioned on the chassis, and wherein the plurality of walls further includes a second wall positioned opposite the first wall and first and second end walls, and wherein the roof is mounted atop the plurality of walls so as to define the interior living space.

12. The recreational vehicle of Claim 8, wherein the opening formed in the first wall extends a lateral distance and a vertical distance in the first wall such that the opening defines the upper and lower portions of the first wall.

5 13. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of securing components includes at least one receptacle formed in the upper portion of the first wall and at least one receptacle formed in the lower portion of the first wall, and wherein the second plurality of securing components includes at least one securing member mounted to the upper outer edge of the slide-out housing that is positionable within the at least one receptacle formed in the upper portion of the first wall when the  
10 slide-out housing is in the retracted position and at least one securing member mounted to the lower outer edge of the slide-out housing that is positionable within the at least one receptacle formed in the lower portion of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position such that the slide-out housing is interconnected to the upper and lower portions of the first wall so that the slide-out housing inhibits movement  
15 between the upper portion of the first wall and the lower portion of the first wall when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

14. The recreational vehicle of Claim 1, wherein the slide-out housing includes upper and lower inner edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the extended position.

20 15. The recreational vehicle of Claim 14, wherein the securing mechanism includes at least one third securing component positioned adjacent the upper portion of the first wall and at least one fourth securing component positioned adjacent the upper inner edge of the slide-out housing, wherein the fourth securing component engages with the third securing component when the slide-out housing is in the extended  
25 position so as to interconnect the upper inner edge of the slide-out housing to the upper portion of the first wall to thereby inhibit movement between the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the extended position.

16. The recreational vehicle of Claim 15, wherein the at least one third securing component includes at least one receptacle formed in the upper portion of the  
30 first wall and the at least one fourth securing component includes at least one securing

member mounted to the upper inner edge of the slide-out housing, and wherein the at least one securing member is positionable within the at least one receptacle when the slide-out housing is in the extended position such that the slide-out housing is interconnected to the upper portion of the first wall so that the slide-out housing helps to maintain the upper portion of the first wall at a selected distance from the lower portion of the first wall.

17. A recreational vehicle comprising:  
a chassis having a plurality of wheels;  
a coach having a plurality of walls that are joined together so as to define an interior living space with a floor and a roof, wherein the plurality of walls includes a first wall having an opening formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall;  
a slide-out positioned within the opening formed in the first wall so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out having a plurality of walls including an outer wall with upper and lower edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach when the slide-out is in the retracted position; and  
a securing assembly having a first plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach and a second plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the outer wall of the slide-out, wherein the second plurality of securing components engage with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall to the lower portion of the first wall via the outer wall of the slide-out when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

18. The recreational vehicle of Claim 17, wherein the first plurality of securing components are adapted to receive the second plurality of securing components, and wherein the second plurality of securing components engages with the

first plurality of securing components in a substantially perpendicular manner when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

19. The recreational vehicle of Claim 17, wherein the first plurality of securing components includes at least one first receptacle and the second plurality of securing components includes at least one first member that is positionable within the at least one first receptacle when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall of the coach to the upper edge of the outer wall of the slide-out.

20. The recreational vehicle of Claim 19, wherein the first plurality of securing components includes at least one second receptacle and the second plurality of securing components includes at least one second member that is positionable within the at least one second receptacle when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the lower portion of the first wall of the coach to the lower edge of the outer wall of the slide-out.

21. The recreational vehicle of Claim 20, wherein the interconnection of the at least one first receptacle and at least one first member and the interconnection of the at least one second receptacle and the at least one second member interconnects the upper portion of the first wall to the lower portion of the first wall via the outer wall of the slide-out.

22. The recreational vehicle of Claim 17, further comprising at least one fifth securing component mounted on the slide-out that is adapted to engage with at least one of the first securing components so as to interconnect the slide-out with the upper portion of the first wall when the slide out housing is in the extended position.

23. A recreational vehicle comprising:  
a chassis having a plurality of wheels;  
a coach mounted to the chassis, the coach having a plurality of walls that are joined together so as to define an interior living space with a floor and a roof, wherein the plurality of walls includes a first wall having an opening formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall;

a slide-out positioned in the opening in the first wall so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out having a plurality of walls including an outer wall with upper and lower edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach when the slide-out is in the retracted position; and

a securing mechanism having a first plurality of securing components mounted on the upper portion of the first wall of the coach and on a portion of the chassis adjacent the lower portion of the first wall of the coach and a second plurality of securing components mounted on the outer wall of the slide-out such that the second plurality of securing components engage with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall of the coach to the chassis via the outer wall of the slide-out when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

24. The recreational vehicle of Claim 23, wherein the first plurality of securing components are adapted to receive the second plurality of securing components, and wherein the second plurality of securing components engages with the first plurality of securing components in a substantially perpendicular manner when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

25. The recreational vehicle of Claim 23, wherein the first plurality of securing components includes at least one first receptacle formed in the upper portion of the first wall and the second plurality of securing components includes at least one first member positioned on the upper edge of the outer wall of the slide-out, and wherein the at least one first member is positionable within the at least one first receptacle when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall of the coach to the upper edge of the outer wall of the slide-out.

26. The recreational vehicle of Claim 25, wherein the first plurality of securing components includes at least one second receptacle formed on a portion of the chassis adjacent the lower portion of the first wall and the second plurality of securing components includes at least one second member positioned on the lower edge of the outer wall of the slide-out, wherein the at least one second member is positionable

within the at least one second receptacle when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect at least a portion of the chassis to the lower edge of the outer wall of the slide-out.

5           27.     The recreational vehicle of Claim 26, wherein the interconnection of the at least one first member and the at least one first receptacle and the interconnection of the at least one second member and the at least one second receptacle interconnects the upper portion of the first wall to at least a portion of the chassis via the outer wall of the slide-out.

10           28.     The recreational vehicle of Claim 23, further comprising at least one fifth securing component mounted on the slide-out that is adapted to engage with at least one of the first securing components so as to interconnect the slide-out with the upper portion of the first wall when the slide out housing is in the extended position.